

Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board
2009-2010 Annual Report
Design Review Activity
April 15, 2010

Summary

The Board reviewed nine projects over the past year. Seven projects were initiated by application to the Board for review and the Board opened one project in response to an outdoor structure construction without prior approval of the Board and/or the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC). One project was a continuation to review an open project that did not complete the review process in previous reporting year. Two out of the nine projects reviewed by the Board are pending at the time of this writing. All projects approved by the Board during this term that were later submitted to the MCHPC were approved by the MCHPC.

In addition to project reviews, the Board is working with Housing & Community Development staff to complete the Takoma Park Design Guidelines for Commercial Buildings. The Board anticipates presenting the Design Guidelines to City Council in 2010.

Over the past year, the Board periodically initiated contact with property owners deemed to be in violation of the Commercial District Façade Ordinance. Excluding one recently opened project that is still under review, all such contacts were resolved amicably.

On March 20, 2010, members of the Board, accompanied by the director of Takoma Park's Public Works Department Daryl Braithwaite, undertook a walking survey of downtown Takoma Park. The Board surveyed the status of building facades, safety of streets and city fixtures, and placement of newspaper boxes. The Board observed that there is a proliferation of freestanding newspaper boxes throughout the downtown area with large clusters located in front of the Post Office on Laurel Avenue and at Takoma Junction. Some boxes appear to be no longer in use and many are in poor condition; rust, faded plastic, and dirty. Based on its review of the streetscape, the Board respectfully recommends that the City of Takoma Park begin to actively enforce the City's existing regulations governing newspaper boxes, *Takoma Park Code Chapter 8.08 Newspaper*. The Board further suggests that the City review the approaches of other jurisdictions to the issue of newspaper boxes and consider amending Chapter 8.08 to prohibit freestanding boxes and require that newspapers be made available in multi-unit communal racks provided and controlled by the City to promote a clean, common look and feel.

The Board is available for further comment to City Council at its request.

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Projects: April 2009 through March 2010

6931 Laurel Ave	Sun Trust Banks, Inc. Installation of ATM Approved with condition by Board Approved by MCHPC
7040 Carroll Ave	Roscoe's Neapolitan Pizzeria Installation of outdoor structure Open Project Application to MCHPC pending
7040 Carroll Ave	Roscoe's Neapolitan Pizzeria Removal of outdoor planters Approved with condition by Board Application to MCHPC approved at staff level HAWP is not required
7334 Carroll Ave	7334 Carroll, LLC Replacement of an alley gate and a garage door Approved by Board Approved by MCHPC
7001 Carroll Ave	Westmoreland LLC Installation of new signage Approved by Board Application to MCHPC not required
6923 Laurel Avenue	Urciolo Properties, LLC Door, window frame and storefront glass replacement, sidelight restoration Approved with conditions by Board Application to MCHPC pending
1 Columbia Avenue	The Still Point Exterior doors and lights replacement, sign installation Approved with conditions by Board Application to MCHPC pending
7014 Westmorland Avenue	Airstream Mastering Mosaic green wall and rain garden Approved with conditions by Board Application to MCHPC pending
7320 Carroll Avenue	The Green Commuter Sign installation Open project

Respectfully submitted,

The Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board

By: Ali Barrionuevo, Chairperson